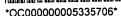


FORMALITIES LETTER





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademaik Office

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APPLICATION NUMBER

FILING/RECEIPT DATE

FIRST NAMED APPLICANT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

09/598,443

06/22/2000

John Ernest Sims

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Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP 1300 I Street NW Washington, DC 20005-3315

Date Mailed: 08/18/2000

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- Total additional claim fee(s) for this application is \$.
 - \$234 for 3 independent claims over 3.
- The oath or declaration is missing.
 A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required.

 To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(e) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

• The balance due by applicant is \$ 26.

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.

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Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

8/18/00 11:21 AM